

# FBMG Help Desk

## Question of the Week

---

**Can I use Raw Chicken Manure on My Garden?**

*Answer: All Manures have to be composted before they can be added to any garden..*



*Always Compost Manures Before Use*

## *Know the Health of your Flock*

*Composting to the proper temperature of 160 degrees for a period of five to six weeks is required, as harmful Pathogens such as Salmonella, Cryptosporidium and E-coli can be found in raw chicken manure.*



*Composting to the proper temperature kills most pathogens.*

# Raw Chicken Manure Can Burn Plants

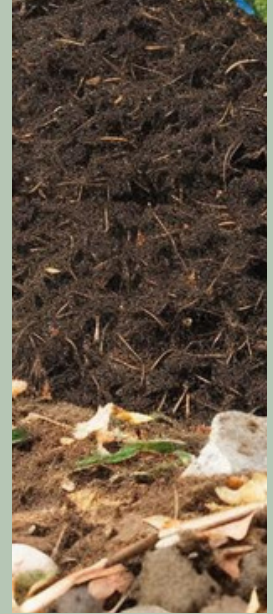
*Raw, it is high in nitrogen and salts, it can burn  
and damage plants*

*Composted, it is a great soil amendment*



*Composted it works well with*

- *flower beds, shrubs, vegetables*



Benefits of composting properly

- provides a slow release of stabilized nutrients
- in addition to killing most pathogens it kills most weed seeds
- great to reduce wastes from yard, garden, kitchen



*Always have your soil tested so you will know the nutrients it requires.*

# More than Manure Comes out of the Coop

## *Proper Composting is Necessary*

**It is not just manure.**

In addition to manure the coop contains bedding, feathers, eggshells, urine, uneaten food, as well as other bits and pieces of debris. All of which, when properly composted will become an amazing material that can be beneficial for plants and the soil.



*Slowly releasing nutrients high in nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus and calcium as well as smaller amounts of magnesium, sulfur, iron, copper, zinc to name a few secondary plant foods.*

### **Some uses for compost are:**

- apply to the lawn as a top dressing
- mulch garden plants
- before planting flowers beds mix with the soil
- make your own potting mix for outdoor containers by adding to peat moss, bagged topsoil, perlite
- give away to friends and neighbors



*make sure to properly compost before using*

*Always follow food safety guidelines*

*Washing produce before eating is good practice.*

Fruits and vegetables from the garden can come in contact with the soil.



When Harvesting

- brush off excess soil
- wash before eating
- find that favorite recipe



# Want to learn more about Composting?

**Presented by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Fort Bend County, along with the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners**



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Fort Bend County Master Gardeners are offering Grow Your Own, a six-class program on creating a productive edible garden in the home landscape.

## 2023 Class Schedule

9:00 – 10:30 am

Classes are in-person at the  
Bud O'Shieles Community Center

Fruit Trees – February 4

Edible Garden Planning – March 4

Warm Season Vegetables & Herbs – April 15

Setting up Raised Beds/Planters – May 13

Cool Season Vegetables & Herbs – August 5

Composting – September 9

Register On-Line:

<https://fbmg.org>

<https://fortbend.agrilife.org/grow-your-own/>



## Composting

- can be a fun and rewarding activity.
- advantages include a healthier garden and less yard waste going to a landfill.
- Want to learn how to make compost using items from your kitchen, yard, and gardens?

*Sign up for the  
Grow your Own Composting  
Saturday, September 9, 2023*



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension activities are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at 281-342-5934 for assistance five working days prior to activity.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.

*Grow Your Own 2023 (fbmg.org)*

*Do you have questions  
about your home  
landscape and plants?*

*Contact the Fort Bend  
Master Gardener Help Desk*

*Email:  
FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu*

*Phone:  
281-341-7068*

*The Help Desk is manned  
Monday thru Friday,  
9am-Noon*

*Grow Your Own 2023 (fbmg.org)*

*Composting-Publ.-E-278.pdf  
(agrilife.org)*

*GHGS-02.pdf (hawaii.edu)*

*Earth-Kind Landscaping chapter 2*

*Use Manure Safely in Vegetable Garden | A  
Fruitful Discussion (uga.edu)*

*Guidelines for Using Animal Manures and  
Manure-Based Composts in the Garden [fact  
sheet] | Extension (unh.edu)*

*[https://www.ps.spes.vt.edu/consumers/docum  
ents/3 using chicken manure.pdf](https://www.ps.spes.vt.edu/consumers/documents/3_using_chicken_manure.pdf)*

*[https://www.ps.spes.vt.edu/consumers/docum  
ents/3 using chicken manure.pdf](https://www.ps.spes.vt.edu/consumers/docum<br/>ents/3_using_chicken_manure.pdf)*

*Using Chicken Manure Safely in Home Gardens  
and Landscapes | Extension | University of  
Nevada, Reno (unr.edu)*

*Safely-Using-Manure-in-the-GardenLC.pdf  
(wisc.edu)*

*Susan Mahr; University of Wisconsin-Madison  
using manure in the home garden*

*Plant-Nutrient-Functions-and-Deficiency-and-  
Toxicity-Symptoms-MSU-2013.pdf (wsu.edu)*



